

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 DODE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

NSC-05 BIB-01 CU-02 /085 W
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R 211601Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8846

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04671

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MBFR, CSCE, UR, GW

SUBJECT: SOVIET HAM-HANDEDNESS AND THE FRG

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG HAS BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT A SERIES OF HAM-HANDED SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO APPLY PRESSURE ON THE GERMANS. EXAMPLES HAVE OCCURRED IN MOSCOW, GENEVA, VIENNA AND ESPECIALLY IN BONN INVOLVING SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN. THE GERMANS INTEND TO CALL FALIN TO THE FONOFF TO EXPRESS THEIR DISPLEASURE ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY

1. DURING AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND'S CALL ON FRG FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL ON MARCH 20 TO DISCUSS
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ANOTHER SUBJECT (REPORTED SEPTTEL), THE CONVERSATION WAS

INTERRUPTED BY A TELEPHONE CALL FROM FRG CSCE DELEGATION LEADER BLECH IN GENEVA. VAN WELL TOOK THE CALL IN THE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE TO HEAR BLECH'S REPORT OF THE GERMAN TRANSLATION DIFFICULTIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN GENEVA ABOUT THE PEACEFUL CHANGE TEXT. BLECH INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE SOVIETS WERE BEHIND THIS LATEST MOVE TO PERVERT THE MEANING OF THE TEXT. FROM BLECH'S MEETINGS WITH GDR DELEGATION LEADER BOCK, BLECH HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EAST GERMANS WERE SUPPORTING THE SECRETARIAT'S POOR TRANSLATION INTO GERMAN UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE. IN HIS REPLY TO BLECH, VAN WELL STRESSED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR THE FRG DELEGATION TO OBTAIN AN ACCURATE GERMAN TRANSLATION AND IF POSSIBLE TO HAVE IT CIRCULATED BEFORE THE EASTER HOLIDAY BREAK.

2. IN COMMENTING ON THIS PROBLEM, VAN WELL SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LAUGHED OUT OF THE BUNDESTAG IF IT WERE TO PRESENT THE FORMULATION AS PRESENTLY TRANSLATED. IT MAKES NO GRAMMATICAL SENSE WHATSOEVER TO HAVE THE VERB IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SENTENCE. EVERY SCHOOL BOY KNOWS THAT GERMAN VERBS IN A DEPENDENT CLAUSE MUST BE AT THE END. VAN WELL GAVE BLECH THE GO AHEAD TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM IN GENEVA.

3. THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN GENEVA HAS HEIGHTENED GERMAN SUSPICION AND RESENTMENT OF SOVIET HAM-HANDEDNESS IN APPLYING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT IN RECENT WEEKS. APART FROM THE EARLIER ZEMSKOV LECTURE TO SAHM IN MOSCOW, VAN WELL NOTED TWO INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE FRG DELEGATION LEADERS IN GENEVA AND VIENNA--BLECH AND BEHRENDTS RESPECTIVELY--WHO WERE SUBJECTED TO NASTY TIRADES ABOUT GERMAN OBSTRUCTIONISM IN THE CSCE AND MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. THE MARCH 17 ARTICLE IN DER SPIEGEL (REPORTED SEPTEL) WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE HARDENING

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8847

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04671

SOVIET LINE TOWARDS THE FRG ON BERLIN AND CSCE POLICY. VAN WELL TOLD AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND THAT AMBASSADOR FALIN HAD CALLED THE NEWS MAGAZINE FROM MOSCOW TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT UPON HIS RETURN TO BONN WHICH WAS GRANTED. THE INSPIRED ARTICLE WAS THE RESULT. VAN WELL CHARACTERIZED IT AS AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN GENSCHER AND SCHMIDT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, GENSCHER FELT A PRESS BACKGROUNDER WAS REQUIRED AND AUTHORIZED VAN WELL TO GIVE ONE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

4. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SOVIET PRESSURE WAS FALIN'S DELIVERY OF THE BREZHNEV CSCE LETTER TO THE GERMANS. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WAS IN DUBLIN AT THE TIME, AND THE LETTER WAS HANDED TO CHANCELLERY OFFICE CHIEF SCHUELER. IN GIVING HIM THE LETTER, FALIN WARNED THAT THE GERMANS CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD BETTER ACCEDE TO BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL OR THERE WAS NO TELLING WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES MIGHT BE.

5. THE GERMANS ARE UPSET ABOUT WHAT THEY REGARD AS BLATANT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO APPLY PRESSURE WHICH GO BEYOND THE NORMS OF DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. THIS, THEY FEEL, IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF FALIN'S BEHAVIOR IN BONN, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF. VAN WELL SAID THAT STATE SECRETARY GEHLHOFF HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CALL FALIN TO THE FONOFF TO ADVISE HIM OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT THE

AMBASSADOR'S ACTIVITIES AND TO REQUEST THAT THEY
CEASE.
HILLENBRAND

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